

Media Contact: John Walsh (208) 526-8684

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **11 INL bus drivers reach million safe miles mark**

The U.S. Department of Energy and its Idaho National Laboratory have recognized 11 INL bus drivers for each reaching a remarkable personal milestone – one million miles of safe bus driving.

The following drivers have set the pace for INL with a million safe bus driving miles without an accident: Eddy Frasure, Rolando Hernandez, Glenn Horsch, Claude May, Dennis Merrill, Robin Miller, Dennis Peterson, Bill Quinn, Clint Sims, Grover Staub and Joel Wright.

DOE Acting Undersecretary of Energy Dennis Spurgeon praised the drivers for their decades of safety excellence, in a letter to INL Lab Director John Grossenbacher.

"To put this accomplishment in perspective, a bus driver at INL needs to drive almost 30 years to reach one million miles," Spurgeon wrote. "This is a particularly remarkable achievement considering the ever-changing condition of the roads in Idaho, especially during the winter months.

"On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, I congratulate these drivers for achieving this significant milestone. I would also like to recognize the people who work tirelessly to maintain the fleet in top condition under demanding conditions and schedules. Perhaps more than any others, we entrust to these few, on a daily basis, the safety and well-being of the people of our laboratory. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done."

"INL is proud of these drivers," INL Facilities & Site Services Director Dwayne Coburn said. "We salute them for their remarkable attention to safety, day-in and day-out for year after year after year. Nothing is more important than the safety of our people – and these drivers have known and practiced that for literally their entire driving careers.

"I also wish to recognize and thank the entire group of hard-working men and women who support our fleet through mechanical work, maintenance and repair, dispatch and administrative work," Coburn said. "Our drivers are the best – and they have the very best maintenance and support team behind them 24 hours a day."

INL Transportation & Fleet Department Manager Marc Carroll explained how difficult it really is to reach the milestone.

"Any accident – even backing into something and making a small dent – would reset the odometer that counts safe miles, according to the guidelines set by National Safety Council," Carroll said. "This essentially requires the driver to 'sit out' from the miles accumulation for 1 year (with no accidents) and then afterward the driver can continue to accumulate safe driving miles toward the Million Mile goal," he said.

"These drivers are the very best of the best," Carroll added. "They each have gone literally decades, driving in all kinds of weather, day and night, safely bringing INL people to work and getting them safely back home. They set the highest standards for our fleet operations – and the example for all our drivers when it comes to safe operations."

-INL- 07-020-

[News Release Archive](#)